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Lieutenant General I. H. Edwards
Commanding General, Air University
Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

Dear Idwal:

I have deliberately delayed my reply to your cordial letter of 6 February 1952 in the hope that I would be able to arrange my schedule so as to accept your invitation to lecture at the Air War College on 7 April. For some time however, I have been planning to take a little leave if the pressure of work permitted, and I now find that I can get away the last of March and the first of April. You will understand why I must decline your invitation.

I would like to recommend however, [redacted] of the Senior Intelligence Officers of this Agency, to take my place. [redacted] has been in close touch with the Soviet problem since 1944, when, as a Marine officer, he commanded the [redacted]. He joined CIA in 1946 and has been in top positions in our work on the USSR since that time, except for a period of a few months in 1949 when he went to [redacted]. Most recently he directed and coordinated our latest National Intelligence Estimate on Soviet intentions.

[redacted] is an experienced and lively speaker with an excellent personality and has lectured frequently on the subject of Soviet intentions.

Again I regret that I will be unable to make this presentation myself but I am sure you will understand my reasons for suggesting a substitute.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Walter B. Smith
 Director

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